

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) An endoscope apparatus comprising:  
an elongated insert portion having flexibility, the insert portion adapted for insertion into at least a space targeted for inspection;  
an endoscope main body having an apparatus main body used in combination with the insert portion;  
a scope unit being linked with the apparatus main body via a connector portion having the insertion portion;  
an insert portion holding member which houses the scope unit therein and includes mount member insert holes to allow mount members provided on a mount face of the apparatus main body to be removably engaged, and  
an endoscope housing case which houses the endoscope main body therein, the endoscope main body being attached to be integrated with the insert portion holding member, wherein  
the endoscope main body is housed in or removed from the endoscope housing case while the insert portion holding member is attached to be integrated with the endoscope main body.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the insert portion holding member is provided detachably at the scope unit.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the endoscope housing case is capable of housing an operating portion to operate the endoscope main body.

7-9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 1 ~~[[10]]~~, wherein the scope unit is composed of: an elongated insert portion having flexibility, the insert portion being inserted into at least a space targeted for inspection; an intermediate linking portion; and a universal cable.

12. (Currently Amended) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 1 ~~[[10]]~~, wherein the scope unit is held at the intermediate linking portion in a state in which a proximal end part of the insert portion and a distal end part of the universal cable portion are inclined to each other such that an axis of the proximal end part of the insert portion crosses an axis of the distal end part of the universal cable portion.

13. (Currently Amended) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 1 ~~[[10]]~~, wherein the scope unit comprises a manipulating device inserting channel in which the insert portion at one end is opened at a distal end part of the insert portion, and the insert portion at the other end is opened at a proximal end thereof, and the intermediate linking portion comprises a forceps inserting base connected to the manipulating device inserting channel and having an axis which is coincident with an axis of the manipulating inserting channel.

14-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 1 ~~[[14]]~~, wherein the scope unit has a feature for achieving flexible bending in an identical direction due to an action of the residual stress or permanent strain, and can be formed in an annular shape of a substantially flat state due to winding of an equal diameter.

18. (Canceled)